



UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1864

3 April 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Secretary-General returns to New York after four-day visit to Central America and Caribbean.
- + UNMIH reports uneventful weekend following take-over from Multinational Force in Haiti.
- + UNPROFOR notes increased fighting in Bihac pocket, and some shelling of safe area, but relative quiet elsewhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- + General Assembly approves financing of UNMIH, UNMOT and UNIKOM; elections to World Court to be held on 21 June and 12 July.
- + Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves authorization of almost \$34 million for MINURSO for seven-month period.
- + Commission on Status of Women urges release of all women and children held hostage.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali returned to New York this afternoon, having concluded a four-day visit to Central America and the Caribbean. This morning, he visited the headquarters of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) and met with Director Leonardo Franco.

The Secretary-General met earlier in the day with the leaders of the Assembly of the Civil Society, and handed over to them the Agreement on Identity and Rights of Indigenous People, which was signed in Mexico City on Friday. He also met with Nobel Laureate Rigoberta Menchu.

In El Salvador yesterday, the Secretary-General had separate meetings with representatives of the Government and the Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional (FMLN). He also met with heads of United Nations agencies in El Salvador and of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL). The Secretary-General was in Honduras on Saturday, where he met

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with President Carlos Reina, and was presented with the Order of Jose Cecilio del Valle.

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The weekend passed quietly for the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH), which took over from the United States-led Multinational Force on Friday, according to a spokesman for the Organization. The Mission has been fully deployed, having absorbed some 3,800 of the 7,000 troops in the Multinational Force.

The spokesman noted that voter registration for the June elections was underway in all departments of Haiti.

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The United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) also had a quiet weekend, the spokesman noted. Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, had several meetings with the parties concerned today, and hoped to secure agreement on details of the operational plan for UNCRO's new mandate.

Meanwhile in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) reported increased fighting in the Bihac pocket. There was some shelling of the safe area, although it appeared to be random and caused no casualties. However, there was relatively little activity elsewhere in the country.

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The General Assembly has appropriated almost \$152 million gross to maintain the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) from 1 February to 31 July 1995. It also appropriated almost \$6 million for the period 1 August to 31 January 1995, and \$44,200 for 1 to 31 July 1994.

In another action on Friday, the Assembly approved \$10 million for the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) for the period 27 April 1995 to 30 June 1996, should the Security Council extend the Mission's mandate. It also appropriated more than \$3 million for the period 16 December 1994 to 26 April 1995. The Assembly provisionally approved \$12 million for the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) from 1 April to 30 June 1995, subject to the extension of its mandate.

In another action, on questions relating to the programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995, the Assembly decided to keep under review the level of support costs charged to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research; to take note of the Secretary General's report on the pension scheme for members of the International Court of Justice; and to request the Secretary General to proceed with the establishment of a unified conference servicing facility at the Vienna International Centre under the management of the United Nations.

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The Assembly also decided to hold an election on 21 June to fill a vacancy on the International Court of Justice resulting from the death on 24 February of Justice Roberto Ago of Italy. The new member of the Court will serve the remainder of Judge Ago's term, which expires 5 February 1997. Another election will be held on 12 July to fill the vacancy resulting from the resignation of Judge Sir Robert Yewdall Jennings of the United Kingdom.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has approved a draft resolution which would authorize the Secretary-General to commit up to \$34 million gross for the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for the period 1 December 1994 to 30 June 1995. That amount would include \$29 million for the period from 1 December 1994 to 31 May 1995, and \$5 million for the period 1 to 30 June 1995, if the Security Council extends the Mission's mandate beyond 31 May.

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The Commission on the Status of Women has urged the release of women and children taken hostage in armed conflicts before the opening of the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing on 4 September. In a resolution adopted on Friday, the Commission asked the Secretary-General and international agencies to help facilitate the release of those women and children. It took that action by 27 votes in favour to none against, with 14 abstentions.

The Commission requested the Secretary-General to inform the World Conference on progress made in implementing the resolution.

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Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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4 April 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Secretary-General says successful transfer of command from Multinational Force to UNMIH highlighted level of cooperation between United Nations and United States.
- + Secretary-General says preventive United Nations action is needed in Burundi; Special Representative to convene meeting of political leaders in Bujumbura tomorrow, amid unconfirmed reports of ethnic massacres in north.
- + United Nations and OSCE to hold meeting in Geneva on human rights situation in Chechnya.
- + Special Envoy for Tajikistan to visit Moscow, Dushanbe, Tashkent and northern Afghanistan to prepare for fourth round of inter-Tajik talks.
- + United Nations asks Guatemalan parties to present proposals on socio-economic rights and agrarian situation for evaluation.
- + Ad Hoc Committee on Establishment of International Criminal Court begins first session.
- + Administrative and Budgetary Committee approves commitment authorizations for International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia and UNAMIR.
- + Commission on Status of Women recommends extension of current session until Friday to finalize draft action platform for Beijing Conference.
- + United Nations holds annual orientation course for new members of permanent missions.

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The successful transfer of command from the Multinational Force to the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) highlighted the level of cooperation

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between the Organization and the United States, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. He made that comment to correspondents today, after briefing the Security Council on his four-day visit to Central America and the Caribbean.

The Secretary-General said he had had lengthy talks with President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Port-au-Prince. He had stressed the importance of the upcoming Haitian elections, without which it would be difficult to obtain vital foreign investment. He had also dwelt on the need to reinforce the Haitian police, and on the importance of follow-up to the United Nations Mission, especially in the area of economic assistance.

The Council supported, in principle, the maintenance of a small political office in El Salvador after 30 April, the Secretary-General continued. The mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) will expire on that date. In a recent report, he said a small team of professionals, with support staff, could verify compliance with pending aspects of the El Salvador peace accords and provide good offices.

He went on to say that his visit reflected the Organization's commitment to Latin America and the Caribbean. Peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslavia and Africa were not being maintained at the expense of activities elsewhere, he added.

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The Secretary-General said today that preventive United Nations action was needed in Burundi. He stressed that the Organization was working very seriously to deal with the situation there, citing the dispatch of human rights observers.

In a related development, a United Nations spokesman announced that Special Representative Ahmedou Ould Abdallah would convene a meeting of political and other leaders in Bujumbura tomorrow to discuss the situation. There have been unconfirmed reports of ethnic massacres in the north of the country, but the Special Representative has described the situation in the capital as calm. He has received notes from the Prime Minister and the Chief of Staff of the Army on the reported killings.

Meanwhile, Rwanda had been largely unaffected by the recent events in Burundi, according to Special Representative Shahryar Khan. He expressed the hope that the anniversary of last year's ethnic massacres would be marked peacefully on Friday. He noted that overcrowding in prisons and the growing number of arrests by the authorities remained sources of tension. However, the Trust Fund for Rwanda had earmarked \$600,000 for assistance to the judicial system, while the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) was helping to improve facilities in detention centres.

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The United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) are to convene a joint meeting on the human rights situation in Chechnya, a spokesman for the Organization announced today. The meeting, to be held in Geneva on Friday, will be chaired by Hungary's Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Among the participants in the meeting will be the Council of Europe; the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC); the United Nations Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR); the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; and the Department of Humanitarian Affairs.

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The Secretary-General has asked his Special Envoy for Tajikistan, Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, to visit Moscow, Dushanbe, Tashkent and northern Afghanistan to fix the time, venue and agenda for the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks. The Special Envoy was expected to arrive in Moscow today, according to a United Nations spokesman.

As agreed during previous consultations, the substantive issues of national reconciliation through the establishment of a broad-based government and the renunciation of the use of force will constitute the core of the agenda of the upcoming talks.

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The United Nations has asked the Government of Guatemala and the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) to present it with proposals on socio-economic rights and on the agrarian situation in the country. That request follows the signing by the parties of the Agreement on Identity and Rights of Indigenous People in Mexico City on Friday. The Organization will evaluate the proposals to identify areas of agreement and disagreement, with a view to moving forward with negotiations.

Before leaving Guatemala yesterday, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the United Nations was determined to pursue and strengthen its efforts to promote national reconciliation in the country. He warned that the difficulties should not be underestimated, but stressed that peace and reconciliation could be achieved with political will and the support of the international community.

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The Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court yesterday began its first session and elected Adriaan Bos (Netherlands) as its Chairman. Silvia Fernandez de Gurmendi (Argentina), Marek Madej (Poland) and Sherif Dassiouni (Egypt) were elected Vice-Chairmen, while Kuniko Saeki (Japan) was elected Rapporteur.

The Committee was established by the General Assembly last year to review issues arising from the draft statute for an international criminal court

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prepared by the International Law Commission. In the light of that review, it will consider arrangements for convening an international conference to adopt the statute for such a court.

United Nations Legal Counsel Hans Corell said the establishment of an international criminal court had been under consideration for almost half a century. During that time the world had witnessed countless atrocities. Recently, the Security Council had had to resort to ad hoc tribunals to ensure the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of crimes such as those committed in the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda. Against that background, the Committee could make a major contribution to the enforcement of the most fundamental rules of international law.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has recommended that the Secretary-General be authorized to commit some \$1 million to allow the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to continue its activities from 1 to 14 April. The authorization would be made without prejudice to any decisions that the General Assembly might take with regard to the mode of financing of the International Tribunal.

The Committee approved a draft decision to that effect after postponing for one week formal discussion of a draft resolution which would reaffirm that the expenses of the International Tribunal should be met through assessed contributions. By the draft resolution, the Assembly would maintain the same arrangement for financing the Tribunal for the 1996-1997 biennium. It would consider the mode of financing the Tribunal for the subsequent periods at its fifty-second session.

The Committee also approved a draft decision which would authorize the Secretary-General to commit up to \$80 million gross for the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) for the period 10 December 1994 to 9 June 1995. For the period 10 June to 9 July 1995, the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to commit almost \$20 million should the Security Council extend the Mission's mandate.

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The Commission on the Status of Women has recommended that its current session be extended until Friday to finalize negotiations on the draft platform for the Fourth World Conference on Women. The session was scheduled to have concluded today. The Commission's recommendation must be approved by the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council, but no formal meeting of the Council is required for that purpose. The Commission is serving as the preparatory body for the Conference, which will be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September.

The Commission's working group, which has been negotiating the draft platform since 20 March, will conduct its deliberations through three informal working groups. Informal working group I will discuss the section on natural

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resources and the environment; informal working group II will negotiate the section on national mechanisms to promote the advancement of women as well as the proposed section on girls; and informal working group III will deal with the section on health status and health-care services. Informal working group III will also discuss a draft declaration to be submitted to the Beijing Conference.

Meanwhile, the Commission has called for special attention to be paid to the situation of rural women, particularly those displaced by terrorism, drug trafficking and other violence. In a resolution adopted yesterday without a vote, it called on governments to integrate displaced rural women in the formulation and implementation of policies for rural development.

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The annual orientation course for new members of permanent missions on the work of the United Nations, organized jointly by the Office of Human Resources Management and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, began today at Headquarters.

The programme, which will conclude on 13 April, is intended for diplomats who recently joined their permanent missions. High-ranking diplomats and senior United Nations officials will address the group. Among the subjects to be covered are the role and functions of the United Nations and its principal organs, the functions of a permanent mission and the role of a diplomat in a multilateral setting.

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UNITED NATIONS

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5 April 1995

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Secretary-General recommends maintenance of UNIKOM, citing contribution to reduction of tension along Iraq-Kuwait border.
- + Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is meeting commitment to close border with Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Co-Chairmen of ICFY report.
- + Improved weather brings heavier fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bihac safe area shelled for fifth day in row.
- + Jurisdiction of proposed international criminal court and power of Security Council to refer cases discussed in Ad Hoc Committee.
- + Member States owe United Nations \$2.8 billion as of 31 March; \$1.1 billion owed to regular budget and \$1.7 billion to peace-keeping.
- + Deputy Special Representative Ossa to be UNDP Resident Representative in Haiti.

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The United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM) has contributed significantly to the reduction of tension and the preservation of calm in its area of operation, and should be maintained, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council dated 31 March, he said calm had generally prevailed along the border and in the demilitarized zone between Iraq and Kuwait over the last six months. However, there had been a period of tension in October in connection with reports about the deployment of Iraqi troops north of the zone.

On 13 March, two United States citizens had been apprehended by Iraqi police after mistakenly crossing the border, the Secretary-General continued. The two had been allowed to pass a UNIKOM checkpoint because, with darkness falling, the sentries on duty had mistaken their white vehicle for one

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belonging to the United Nations. The procedures at the checkpoint had since been tightened, and the Organization was making an effort to have the two men released.

The Secretary-General commended UNIKOM for the manner in which it discharged its responsibilities. The Mission maintained a high level of vigilance through its patrols and liaison activities, and provided administrative and logistic support for United Nations agencies in Iraq and Kuwait.

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The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is continuing to meet its commitment to close its land border with areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina controlled by Bosnian Serb forces, according to the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. In a report on the operations of the Conference's Mission to the Federal Republic, they also concluded that there had been no commercial transshipments across the border between the two countries in the last 30 days. The report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in a letter dated 31 March.

The Co-Chairmen called attention to the Mission's financial difficulties. Operating costs were being sharply reduced, and no new observers were being taken on to replace those who left. They warned that the number of international observers on duty would fall from 163 to a minimal threshold of 150 if financial constraints were not eased. An observer complement below 150 might be unable to provide sufficiently credible information to certify whether the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) was complying with its commitment to close the border. If the draft six-month budget of \$3.66 million were fulfilled, the Mission could bring the complement of international observers up to 250.

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Spring-like weather has brought heavier fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a United Nations spokesman said today. He noted an increase in military activity around Tuzla and Travnik, where Bosnian Government forces have been on the offensive in recent weeks. The Bihac safe area was shelled for the fifth day in a row, with three impacts reported today. Those shells were fired from the north-west of the town, and might have come from Croatian Serb positions. The Bosnian Serbs were responsible for the shelling in the past four days.

There was also increased military activity in Sarajevo, the spokesman continued. Bosnian Government forces fired heavy machine-guns into a suburb controlled by Bosnian Serbs, prompting retaliatory mortar fire against a Government-held village. However, the city's airport remained open.

The spokesman expressed concern about the resupply situation of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The Bosnian Serbs have not allowed fuel deliveries to the eastern enclaves since 2 March. UNPROFOR fuel

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supplies have also been running low in Sarajevo. However, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) convoys have been reaching the eastern enclaves on a regular basis. A UNHCR convoy reached the Bihac pocket today, although the agency has not been meeting its delivery targets since the relief effort began last October.

Meanwhile, the Croatian Serbs have informed the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) that they will not cooperate with military observers or civilian police patrolling in Sector East until UNCRO's new mandate is clarified. They also said that they objected to the new mission's name.

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There should be a clear and precise definition of the crimes that would fall under the jurisdiction of the proposed international criminal court, speakers told the Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court yesterday. Some said the court's jurisdiction should be limited to the most serious crimes, which must be precisely defined. The current provisions on jurisdiction only enumerated certain crimes without clearly defining what they were. The statute of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia was cited as a model for defining crimes against humanity and genocide.

Some speakers said the Security Council should not have the authority to refer cases directly to the proposed court without the consent of States. Algeria said such authority would not necessarily be governed by international law and would derogate from the rule requiring acceptance of the jurisdiction of the court by States before a case could be brought before it. Giving the Security Council that privilege would mean a considerable expansion of its powers. It would also disregard the authority of the General Assembly in the area of international peace and security.

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As of 31 March, Member States owed the United Nations a total of \$2.8 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, \$1.1 billion was for assessments for the regular budget and \$1.7 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed \$527 million to the regular budget and \$553 million to peace-keeping. The Russian Federation owed \$63 million to the regular budget and \$565 million to peace-keeping.

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The Deputy Special Representative for Haiti, Cristian Ossa, has been appointed as the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the country, a spokesman for the Organization announced today. He noted that it was the first such integration of a United Nations aid effort with a peace-keeping operation.

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Daily Highlights

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6 April 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council says UNOSOM II saved lives and aided peace process in Somalia, but effort was undermined by lack of cooperation from parties; supports maintenance of United Nations political mission and humanitarian activities, but says Somali people bear ultimate responsibility for peace.
- + Secretary-General has meetings with United States Secretary of State and Egyptian President in Washington, D.C.
- + Secretary-General says international community should mark first anniversary of Rwanda genocide by intensifying reconstruction and reconciliation efforts.
- + High Commissioner for Human Rights condemns ethnic killings in Burundi; calls on international community to act now to prevent repetition of Rwanda tragedy.
- + General Assembly adopts decisions on financing of UNAMIR, MINURSO and International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia.
- + Commission on Status of Women recommends Economic and Social Council act on pending requests for accreditation of NGOs to Beijing Conference.
- + United States must ensure security of foreign missions and safety of their personnel, Cuba tells Committee on Relations with Host Country.

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The Security Council today said that the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) helped save lives and property, mitigated suffering and contributed to the search for peace. In a statement read out by its President, Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic), the Council noted that the United Nations had made significant efforts to restore peace and stability, and to facilitate the reemergence of civil society in Somalia. However, the lack of

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progress in the peace process and in national reconciliation, and the lack of cooperation from the Somali parties over security issues, undermined those efforts and prevented the continuation of UNOSOM II beyond 31 March.

The Council stressed that only a broad-based approach to political reconciliation would bring about a lasting political settlement in Somalia. The Somali people bore the ultimate responsibility for achieving national reconciliation and peace. The international community could facilitate, encourage and assist the process, but could not try to impose a solution. The Council called on the parties to pursue national reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction in the interest of peace, security and development.

The United Nations should not abandon Somalia, the Council said. It would continue to assist the Somali people to achieve a political settlement if they demonstrated a disposition to peaceful resolution of the conflict and cooperation with the international community. The Council welcomed the Secretary-General's intention to maintain a small political mission, should the Somali parties so wish, to assist in national reconciliation. It was also important to sustain United Nations humanitarian activities in Somalia, but that would depend on the degree of cooperation and security offered by the parties. The Council went on to say that there were important lessons to be learned about the theory and practice of peacemaking, peace-keeping and peace-building from the Operation in Somalia.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met today with United States Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Washington, D.C. A United Nations spokesman said they discussed the situation in the Middle East, including the peace process and developments in relation to the Palestinians, and the situations regarding Libya and Iraq. They also discussed the financial status of the United Nations, and Mr. Christopher expressed support for the Secretary-General's efforts with respect to administrative reform. Both expressed satisfaction regarding the recent transfer of command from the Multinational Force to the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH).

Yesterday, the Secretary-General met with President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. They conducted a general review of the situation in the Middle East, and discussed the situation in Burundi. The Secretary-General thanked Egypt for continuing to contribute troops to United Nations peace-keeping operations.

Also in Washington, the Secretary-General addressed members of the New York Stock Exchange yesterday. He called attention to the financial plight of the United Nations, which he described as a corporation worth backing. "Everyone wants to buy into peace, security, development, human rights and democracy", he said. "The unique selling proposition is, as always, clear and simple: the United Nations is the only machinery for effective cooperation

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among all nations to mutual advantage, for peace and prosperity".

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The Secretary-General today conveyed his sympathy and condolences to the survivors of the genocide which was committed in Rwanda one year ago. "Never should the world allow such a tragedy on our planet. Never should the perpetrators of such crimes be permitted to get away with impunity", he said. The international community must recommit itself to the objective of a better world as envisaged in the United Nations Charter, and must reaffirm its faith in the dignity and worth of the human person.

The international community must intensify its efforts for reconstruction and reconciliation in Rwanda, as a fitting and enduring tribute to those who had lost their lives, the Secretary-General continued. He pledged that the United Nations would continue to support all endeavours aimed at building a new Rwandese society based on tolerance, harmony and justice.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso, today strongly condemned recent violations of human rights in Burundi. He expressed particular concern about news of numerous ethnic killings of women and children in the countryside.

"The international community has to act now if it wants to avoid in Burundi the repetition of the tragedy of Rwanda", he said. Preventive human rights action -- including promoting respect for rights, and strengthening democracy, tolerance and the rule of law -- was indispensable. While the basic responsibility for any solution of the crisis lay with the Government and people of Burundi, the international community and the office of the High Commissioner were ready to provide the necessary assistance.

Mr. Ayala Lasso went on to say that an enhanced human rights programme, with a larger international presence in Burundi, could deter further violations. It would also help to create a climate of tolerance and mutual respect, which might in turn help to reduce the flow of refugees and facilitate their early return.

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The General Assembly today authorized the Secretary-General to commit up to \$80 million gross for the operation of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) from 10 December 1994 to 9 June 1995, in addition to the \$60 million gross previously authorized. It also authorized the Secretary-General to commit up to \$20 million for the period 10 June to 9 July 1995, should the Security Council extend the Mission's mandate beyond 9 June. It decided, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion \$30 million for UNAMIR for the period from 10 February to 9 April 1995, among Member States.

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The Assembly also authorized the Secretary-General to commit almost \$34 million for the Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for the period 1 December 1994 to 30 June 1995. That authorization included commitments of \$29 million for the period 1 December 1994 to 31 May 1995 and \$5 million for the period 1 to 30 June 1995. The commitment authorization was inclusive of the \$6.4 million previously authorized by the Assembly and the \$17 million previously authorized by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ).

In another action, the Assembly authorized the Secretary-General to commit an additional \$1 million to allow the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia to continue its activities between 1 and 14 April. That authorization was made without prejudice to any decisions that the Assembly might take with regard to the mode of financing of the Tribunal.

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The Commission on the Status of Women today recommended that the General Assembly authorize the Economic and Social Council to decide on all pending proposals for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations to the Fourth World Conference on Women and its preparatory process. The Commission is acting as the preparatory body for the Conference, which will be held in Beijing from 4 to 15 September.

Acting by a vote of 40 in favour to none against, with 1 abstention (China), the Commission extended the deadline for non-governmental organizations to submit applications for accreditation to 28 April. The Conference secretariat was requested to inform non-governmental organizations that had not been recommended for accreditation to the Conference and its preparatory process of the reasons for that. The organizations concerned would then be given a chance to provide additional information on their qualifications for accreditation.

The representative of China, who requested the vote on the draft, said that as the Conference's host, China welcomed the non-governmental organizations that were committed to the advancement of women. However, some countries had insisted on accreditation for a few organizations that had nothing to do with the Conference, but were trying to undermine the sovereignty of certain countries. That had disrupted the accreditation process, he said.

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The United States, as host country, should fulfil its legal obligation and ensure the security of missions and the safety of their personnel, Cuba told the Committee on Relations with the Host Country today. The Committee was meeting in response to a request by Cuba. Systematic demonstrations "carried out by terrorist organizations" disrupted the Cuban Mission's work and threatened its personnel, the Cuban representative said. As such activities were punishable under the New York state penal code and federal legislation, the United States must ensure that they ceased.

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The United States representative said his country had responded to complaints by Cuba about protests in the vicinity of its Mission. The United States Constitution allowed for freedom of expression, even if that expression was offensive. The United States Government had also maintained a 24-hour presence at the Cuban Mission. When incidences had occurred in the presence of law enforcement agencies, arrests had been made. When officers were not present, the Cuban mission had been requested to report incidents immediately and to provide evidence. However, the Mission had failed to come forward with such evidence.

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Daily Highlights

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7 April 1995

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + UNPROFOR says cease-fire agreement is being stretched to limit in Bosnia and Herzegovina; peace-keepers confront Bosnian Serbs at Sarajevo checkpoint; Croatian Serbs deny UNCRO Force Commander clearance to land in Sector North.
- + United Nations issues urgent humanitarian alert on worsening situation of displaced persons in Chechnya region.
- + Burundi says its army is in control of situation in north of country; criticizes international media for portraying society drifting towards disaster.
- + Special Representative Beye expresses optimism about Angolan peace process despite logistical delays; UNITA President affirms support for Lusaka Protocol.
- + 1995 Review and Extension Conference of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty to be held at Headquarters from 17 April to 12 May.

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The cease-fire agreement concluded by the parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina is being "stretched to the limit", with some 7,000 firing incidents reported in the last 24 hours, a United Nations spokesman said today. The agreement is due to expire at the end of the month. There has been an increase in military activity along the confrontation line in north-eastern Bosnia and outside Sarajevo. United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) peace-keepers fired warning shots at Bosnian Serb positions after the Bosnian Serbs targeted the strategic logistics route across Mount Igman.

In another development, UNPROFOR has deployed 40 French peace-keepers and four armoured personnel carriers at a Bosnian Serb checkpoint, known as Sierra Four, on the Sarajevo airport road. According to the spokesman, Force Commander Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith decided to confront the Bosnian Serbs over their behaviour at the checkpoint after they detained two Swiss journalists on Tuesday.

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7 April 1995

Meanwhile, Croatian Serbs denied the Force Commander of the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), General Bernard Janvier, clearance to land in Sector North, while he was en route to Bihac on an official visit. The Croatian Serbs have made general threats against United Nations air traffic in the UNCRO mission area.

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The Department of Humanitarian Affairs has issued an urgent alert regarding the situation of internally displaced persons fleeing the fighting in Chechnya. United Nations agencies and other humanitarian organizations operating in Daghestan have reported a sharp increase in the flow of internally displaced persons fleeing Chechnya. Some 30,000 to 50,000 Chechens are currently moving towards the Daghestani border, and up to 3,000 are crossing daily.

Citing the disappointing response to a flash appeal issued in February and a consolidated inter-agency appeal issued in March, the Department urged donor countries to take immediate action. By the end of March, only \$7.9 million of the \$25 million sought to fund humanitarian assistance had been received. Donors should provide additional support to the humanitarian assistance programmes of agencies and organizations operating in the affected republics of the Russian Federation.

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The situation in northern Burundi is absolutely under control, but the international media have presented a picture of a "dichotomized" society drifting towards disaster, the country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations said today. Tharcisse Ntakibirora told correspondents at Headquarters that Burundi had experienced inter-communal violence and ethnic killings since 1993, but was not facing genocide.

Burundi's army was fighting a war against a Hutu militia assisted by elements of the former Rwandan army and Rwandan militia members from across the Zairean border, the Permanent Representative said. The Government also had to contend with Tutsi extremists. It had attempted to quell militia violence by sending in the police and the gendarmerie, but had deployed the army after they failed. The Hutu militia had used people as human shields and some had been killed in the cross-fire, but the army was not deliberately targeting innocent civilians. The army was not perfect, but it had put those guilty of crimes in jail.

Mr. Ntakibirora likened the media's coverage of the situation in Burundi to putting oil on a fire. The country had faced successive crises since 1993 and had solved them, and the army was now solving a new crisis. Meanwhile, political progress was being made. A national debate beginning in July would deal with the protection of minorities, and would lead to the drafting of a new constitution.

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Logistical problems are causing some delay in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol, but Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye remains optimistic about the overall peace process in Angola, according to a United Nations spokesman. Despite violations of the Protocol, the Special Representative expects the next phase of the troop disengagement to be completed by the 10 April deadline.

The President of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), Jonas Savimbi, today affirmed his support for the Protocol and urged his followers to embrace the peace process. He did so at a meeting attended by a Government delegation, the Special Commission, and representatives of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III).

In an interview with United Nations Radio, the Force Commander of UNAVEM III, General Chris Garuba, described today's meeting and Dr. Savimbi's statement as a major milestone in the peace process. He noted that the UNITA President had not been present at the signing of the Lusaka Protocol and had not previously attended a joint meeting such as today's. He added that Dr. Savimbi was expected to meet soon with Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, possibly before the end of the month.

Meanwhile, after a considerable delay, a United Nations technical team has been inspecting the airfield outside the port of Lobito, which is intended to be the principal entry point for UNAVEM III troops and equipment. The spokesman expressed the hope that the Angolan Government would promptly make the necessary arrangements to secure the facility for United Nations use.

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The 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) will be held at Headquarters from 17 April to 12 May. The Conference will review the implementation of the Treaty, which entered into force in 1970, and decide on its extension.

The NPT is a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, and to further the goal of general and complete disarmament. It also promotes cooperation in the field of peaceful technology, while thwarting the threat of nuclear weapons. The NPT has been ratified by 175 countries -- more than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement. Along with other measures in the nuclear non-proliferation regime, it has succeeded in stemming the proliferation of nuclear weapons and in reducing existing arsenals.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1869

10 April 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Secretary-General condemns attacks on Israeli buses in Gaza Strip; commends Government of Israel and PLO for continuing negotiations.
- + Secretary-General has meetings with Prime Minister of Pakistan and Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq.
- + Angolan parties must take resolute steps to implement Lusaka Protocol, or UNAVEM III deployment could be postponed or stopped, Secretary-General says.
- + Special Envoy for Tajikistan escapes injury after attack on convoy taking him to northern Afghanistan.
- + Commission on Status of Women approves draft action platform for Fourth World Conference on Women.
- + Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information appoints Thérèse Gastaut as spokeswoman for World Conference on Women.
- + Secretary-General extends term of Representative in Cambodia for six months, at request of Cambodian Government.
- + Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks continues negotiations on draft agreement on conservation and sustainable development of high-seas fisheries.
- + Commission for Social Development begins thirty-fourth session at Headquarters.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed deep shock at the two attacks on Israeli buses in the Gaza Strip yesterday, in which several people were killed and dozens were wounded. He strongly condemned those acts, as well as other acts of violence, which could only serve to undermine the confidence needed to sustain the peace process.

For information media—not an official (record)

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The Secretary-General commended the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) for continuing their negotiations today, in an effort to implement fully the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements.

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On Saturday, the Secretary-General hosted a working lunch for Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan at his residence. They reviewed political problems in which the United Nations was involved, in particular in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and discussed United Nations efforts in international cooperation and development. Mrs. Bhutto expressed her Government's full support for the Organization's positive contribution in the region.

At Headquarters on Friday, the Secretary-General had a meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, at Mr. Aziz's request. They discussed the latest developments regarding Iraqi compliance with Security Council resolutions, in view of the forthcoming report by the Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq, Rolf Ekeus.

Mr. Aziz also informed the Secretary-General of Iraq's position in relation to the draft resolution currently being considered by the Security Council. The Secretary-General reiterated his support for the "oil-for-food" formula, as a first step towards the alleviation of the suffering of the Iraqi people. He also stressed the importance of Iraq's cooperation with the United Nations.

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United Nations efforts to assist the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol must be matched by political will and concrete action on the part of the Angolan parties, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report dated 7 April, he said the pace of implementation had recently increased, but resolute steps were needed to ensure that the peace process could be pursued with confidence. He expressed concern about the fragility of the cease-fire, reports of military preparations and major troop movements, and indications of the continued acquisition of weapons from abroad. In addition, attacks on unarmed United Nations observers raised doubts about the willingness of the parties to cooperate in good faith.

The Secretary-General noted that arrangements for the dispatch of troop battalions of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) were underway. However, it would be impossible to deploy troops in May if the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) did not comply with the Lusaka Protocol and provide indispensable logistical support. He warned that he would recommend that the deployment of troops be postponed or stopped if the parties did not meet their commitments, including the effective cessation of hostilities, the disengagement of forces and the setting up of verification mechanisms.

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The Secretary-General also warned against undue expectations that the arrival of United Nations troops would in itself solve the pressing problems that the Angolans must resolve themselves. He recalled that UNAVEM III had a mandate to monitor and verify implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. The troops could play a useful role in fostering a climate of mutual trust and confidence, but could not perform the tasks that belonged to the parties themselves. He reiterated that all necessary conditions for the Mission's deployment must be fulfilled in a timely manner, or the schedule would be affected and the peace process hindered. The parties would have to bear full responsibility for the resulting delays.

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A convoy transporting Special Envoy Ramiro Piriz-Ballon from Tajikistan to Afghanistan was attacked today while crossing a river between the two countries, according to a United Nations spokesman. One escort truck was blown up. The Special Envoy was not injured, but it was "a close call". He proceeded into northern Afghanistan after the attack for talks with opposition leaders.

The Secretary-General recently asked Mr. Piriz-Ballon to visit Moscow, Dushanbe, Tashkent and northern Afghanistan to determine the time, venue and agenda for the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks. As agreed during previous consultations, the issue of national reconciliation through the establishment of a broad-based national government and the renunciation of the use of force will constitute the core of the agenda of the upcoming talks.

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A draft platform for action to empower women for the benefit of all was approved on Friday night by the Commission on the Status of Women. It will be submitted to the Fourth World Conference on Women, which will be held in Beijing from 4th to 15th September. The Commission extended its session, which began on 15 March, by three days in order to finalize the draft.

The draft platform contains recommendations relating to the impact on women of: poverty; education; health; violence; armed conflict; economic structures; power sharing and decision-making; mechanisms to promote the advancement of women; human rights; the media; the environment; and the situation of girls. It contains a great deal of bracketed language, indicating text that has yet to be agreed on.

Certain references are consistently placed in brackets, including those relating to sexual health and reproductive rights. Other disputed references include qualifying human rights as "universal"; the term "equity" as opposed to, or in conjunction with, "equality"; references to religious ethical values, cultural background and philosophical convictions; and references to sexual orientation.

In a closing statement, Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the Fourth Conference on Women, said the draft platform made it clear that one

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issue -- the issue of equality between women and men -- was an accepted principle which was non-negotiable. A complete revolution was needed to transfer a fair share of resources into the hands of women.

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The Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar, has appointed Thérèse Gastaut as spokeswoman for the Fourth World Conference on Women. Since 15 December 1992, Mrs. Gastaut has been Director of the United Nations Information Service in Geneva and spokeswoman for the Secretary-General, based in Geneva.

Mrs. Gastaut was the spokeswoman and head of the information team of the Third World Conference on Women, held in Nairobi in 1985, and the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in 1993.

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The Secretary-General has extended the term of his Representative in Cambodia, Benny Widyono, for another six months. In a letter to the Security Council, he said he had taken that action in response to a request by the Cambodian Government.

Mr. Widyono has represented the Secretary-General in Cambodia for the past year, during which he has been assisted by three military advisers in carrying out his mandate in accordance with the Paris Agreements. He will be assisted by one military adviser in the next six months.

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The Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks has been continuing negotiations on a revised draft agreement on the conservation and sustainable development of high-seas fisheries. The original 48-article draft agreement lays out general principles to guide coastal and distant-water-fishing States in fulfilling their conservation and management duties under the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea. Those duties include measures to eliminate overfishing and ensure long-term sustainability of stocks.

Chairman Satya Nandan (Fiji) told the Conference on Friday that there had been broad agreement on article 20, which deals with regional agreements and arrangements for compliance and enforcement. However, some States had expressed concern on the principle governing boarding and inspection of fishing vessels on the high seas. The development of rules and procedures, as well as a safeguards principle, was also being discussed.

Mr. Nandan said that negotiations were focusing on the issue of inspection and communication between the flag State and the port State and follow-up action. Although the Conference was a long way from reaching

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complete agreement on every issue, and there were some reservations on the approach being taken, he was encouraged by the progress that had been made so far.

* * *

The Commission for Social Development today began its thirty-fourth session, meeting at Headquarters for the first time since 1979. Earlier sessions were held every two years in Vienna. Over the next ten days, the Commission will focus on follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development.

The Commission will consider how best to coordinate its work in light of the Summit's outcome and the results of other recent United Nations conferences which addressed social and economic development issues. The Social Summit adopted an action plan addressing the causes of poverty, unemployment and social exclusion, and calling for coordinated action by the international community and the United Nations system.

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Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1870
11 April 1995

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Security Council adopts resolution on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States; urges all States to pursue negotiations in good faith on disarmament treaty, as provided for by NPT.
- + Secretary-General appoints Carol Bellamy of United States as Executive Director of UNICEF.
- + Security Council decides to maintain UNIKOM, as recommended by Secretary-General; notes Iraqi and Kuwaiti authorities have cooperated with Mission.
- + Secretary-General expresses alarm at deterioration of situation in Tajikistan; appeals to Tajik parties to exercise restraint and to hold next round of talks soon.
- + Overall situation in Liberia has deteriorated, but ECOWAS summit could catalyze peace process, Secretary-General says; UNOMIL mandate should be extended to 30 June.
- + United Nations has improved its ability to respond to conflict situations, Under-Secretary General Annan tells Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations.
- + United Nations relieves Major-General Alexander Perelyakin of command of UNCRO Sector East, citing severe shortcomings in his performance.
- + WFP says Rwandan officials are blocking passage of trucks carrying emergency food aid to refugees in Zaire.
- + Legal Committee of Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space concludes annual session.

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For information media—not an official record

The Security Council today adopted a resolution sponsored by China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States. It took that action less than a week before the opening of the 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The Council had before it letters from the five permanent members offering "negative security assurances" to non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty. They said they would not use nuclear weapons against such non-nuclear States except in the case of invasion or attack by them, in association or alliance with a nuclear-weapon State on the State making the assurance, its allies or other States towards which it had a security commitment.

In unanimously adopting resolution 984 (1995), the Council noted the security assurances given by the nuclear-weapon States. It recognized the legitimate interest of non-nuclear-weapon States Parties to the NPT to receive assurances that the Council would act immediately in the event that they were the victim of, or threatened with, an act of aggression with nuclear weapons. In such an event, any State might bring the matter immediately to the Council's attention, to enable it to take urgent action to provide assistance to the victim. The means of assistance would include an investigation into the situation and appropriate measures to settle the dispute and restore international peace and security.

The Council invited Member States to take appropriate measures in response to a request from the victim for technical, medical, scientific or humanitarian assistance. It expressed its intention to recommend appropriate procedures regarding compensation under international law from the aggressor for loss, damage or injury sustained as a result of the aggression.

The Council urged all States, as provided for in the NPT, to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament. It reaffirmed the inherent right, recognized in the United Nations Charter, of individual and collective self-defence if an armed attack occurred against a Member State, until the Council had taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appointed Carol Bellamy as Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Prior to taking that action, he interviewed eight candidates submitted by Belgium, Finland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Ms. Bellamy has been Director of the United States Peace Corps since 1993, and served as President of the New York City Council from 1978 to 1985. She will be replacing James Grant, who died on 28 January, as Executive Director of UNICEF.

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The Security Council has decided to maintain the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), as recommended by the Secretary-General. In a report dated 31 March, he said the Mission contributed significantly to the reduction of tension and the preservation of calm in its area of operations. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 10 April, the President of the Council said the question of UNIKOM's termination or continuation, and its modalities of operation, would be reviewed once again by 7 October.

The Council noted the Secretary-General's statement that UNIKOM had enjoyed the effective cooperation of the Iraqi and Kuwaiti authorities in the performance of its functions. It stressed that Iraq and Kuwait should do everything necessary to facilitate the Mission's freedom of movement. It expressed the hope that both countries would heed UNIKOM's regulations and suggestions designed to reduce the risk of incidents along the border.

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The Secretary-General has expressed alarm at reports from his Special Envoy and the United Nations Mission of Observers for Tajikistan (UNMOT) about the serious deterioration of the situation in Tajikistan. He noted an escalation of violence in recent days, which had resulted in an unfortunate loss of life. He warned that the current extension of the cease-fire agreement and political dialogue between the parties could be derailed.

The Secretary-General appealed to the Tajik parties and other countries concerned to exercise restraint and to do their utmost to continue the political dialogue and to hold the next round of talks as soon as possible.

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The peace process in Liberia remains at an impasse, while the overall situation in the country has deteriorated, according to the Secretary-General. However, in a report dated 10 April, he said the proposed summit of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) could catalyze the peace process, leading to the installation of a Council of State. He thus recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) until 30 June.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the present security situation in Liberia prevented UNOMIL from carrying out part of its mandate, and that he would reduce its military strength by some 20 observers. The military component would be strengthened as necessary when the situation improved. He expressed the hope that ECOWAS would have sufficient time to prepare for and convene its summit, and that the parties would finally decide to cooperate with international efforts to restore peace in Liberia. He urged them to install the Council of State, reestablish an effective cease-fire, and take

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concrete steps to implement the 1994 Accra Agreement. The future role of the United Nations in Liberia would depend on the political will they demonstrated in advancing the peace process.

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The United Nations has improved its ability to respond to conflict situations, according to the Under-Secretary General for Peace-keeping Operations, Kofi Annan. Addressing the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations as it began its 1995 session yesterday, he said that a sound structure had been developed in the Department for Peace-keeping Operations. However, given the enormous complexity, size and number of operations in the field, staffing was still thin by any standard.

In his opening statement, Committee Chairman Ibrahim Gambari cited the far-reaching recommendations made last year by the Committee in such areas as evaluation of operations, command and control, finances and public information. In the current session, the Committee should be able to focus on a few key issues in order to provide the best guidance possible.

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The United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO) Sector Commander in Sector East, Major-General Alexander Perelyakin of the Russian Federation, has been relieved of his command, according to a United Nations spokesman in the former Yugoslavia. He said the decision to relieve General Perelyakin had been taken at Headquarters, in view of "severe shortcomings" in his performance.

The spokesman said Force Commander Bernard Janvier, former Force Commander General Bertrand de Lapresle, and Special Representative Yasushi Akashi were dissatisfied with "the repeated inabilities of General Perelyakin to exhibit acceptable standards of leadership". The General had failed to perform his duties in accordance with the Force Commander's directives, and had failed to improve on his shortcomings when they were brought to his attention. His repatriation has been requested for no later than today.

In a separate development, a Polish UNCRO peace-keeper was found dead of a gunshot wound in Sector North yesterday. He was on duty at the time of his death. An investigation has been launched into the incident.

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Rwandan officials have been blocking the passage of trucks carrying emergency food aid to refugees in Zaire, according to the World Food Programme (WFP). Twenty-nine trucks destined for refugee camps in Bukavu have been blocked at Cyangugu in Rwanda, near the Zairean border, for nearly a week. Another 24 trucks are stuck in Kigali awaiting the opening of the border. The trucks are carrying a total of 2,000 tons of urgently needed food.

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The closure of the Cyangugu crossing point has effectively stopped the flow of aid to refugees in Zaire through Rwanda. Since the beginning of the year, Rwandan authorities have made it increasingly difficult for WFP to transport food through Gisenyi to Goma in Zaire, where 750,000 Rwandan refugees are sheltered. Rwandan officials have subjected WFP convoys to arduous searches and security checks, effectively slowing the flow of aid to a trickle.

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The Legal Committee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space has approved a questionnaire on the legal norms to be applied to aerospace objects. It took that action as it concluded its annual session in Vienna on Friday.

The questionnaire for Committee members comprises nine questions dealing with the definition of aerospace objects -- objects such as space shuttles, as distinct from objects that are simply launched into outer space. They also deal with the legal aspects of the transit of aerospace objects from outer space into airspace and their overflight of foreign States. The questionnaire is included in an annex to the Subcommittee's sessional report.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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DH/1871
12 April 1995

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Special Envoy for Tajikistan secures agreement of Tajik parties to meet in Moscow within days; fighting intensifies in Gorno-Badakshan.
- + Executive Chairman of Special Commission briefs Security Council on ongoing monitoring of Iraqi capabilities; says Iraq has not accounted for some items in biological area.
- + UNHCR reports 33 people killed in attacks on Rwandese refugee camps in Zaire; Secretary-General deplores inflammatory speeches made against UNAMIR in Kigali; calls on all segments of Rwandese society to exercise restraint.
- + UNPROFOR calls for NATO air presence after Bosnian Serb forces shell Gorazde safe area; Abdic forces launch offensive in Bihac pocket.
- + United Kingdom and Nigeria present informal paper on conflict prevention and peace-keeping in Africa to United Nations and OAU.
- + Commission on Sustainable Development could mobilize extra resources for carrying out its mandate, Chairman says.
- + Preparatory Committee for Fiftieth Anniversary decides to give Heads of State precedence over Heads of government at General Assembly commemorative meeting.

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The Special Envoy for Tajikistan, Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, has secured the agreement of the Tajik parties to meet in Moscow within days, Security Council President Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic) announced today. He told correspondents at Headquarters that the meeting might take place on 17 April. He expressed concern at the level of fighting in Tajikistan, but welcomed the Special Envoy's achievement.

A United Nations spokesman said fighting had intensified in the Gorno-Badakshan region, but the Special Envoy was working to restore the

For information media—not an official ~~record~~

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cease-fire. Meanwhile, Russian border forces had been involved in two incidents in another region. However, a team from the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (UNMOT) had arranged a meeting between the Russian forces and the local opposition, at which they had agreed to stop fighting.

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The Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq, Rolf Ekeus, today briefed the Security Council on the ongoing monitoring of the country's capabilities. He later told correspondents that the monitoring system was operational and "humming along" satisfactorily. However, there were still some substantive shortcomings, as Iraq had not accounted for some items in the biological area.

The Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, said the monitoring system could not be substantively effective because Iraq had not yet cooperated in major areas. "The most disturbing fact is that Iraq may well have produced biological weapons which remain unaccounted for", she went on to say.

Ambassador Ekeus will continue his briefing of the Security Council tomorrow.

* * *

The United Nations High Commissioner for High Refugees (UNHCR) today reported that at least 31 people had been killed, and 49 wounded, when unidentified men attacked a Rwandese refugee camp on the edge of Lake Kivu near Bukavu in Zaire. An attack on another camp in the area left two people dead and five wounded. A United Nations spokesman noted that cross-border attacks into Rwanda had reportedly been launched from the same area in recent months. He also noted that the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) did not include border monitoring.

The spokesman went on to say that the UNHCR had worked out arrangements with the authorities in Zaire calling for the deployment of 1,500 troops to protect Rwandese refugees. Some 700 Zairean troops had been deployed in the Goma area, where there were 740,000 refugees. There were another 300,000 Rwandese refugees in the Bukavu area.

Meanwhile, the Secretary-General has deplored inflammatory speeches made against the United Nations and UNAMIR at a demonstration outside the Mission's headquarters yesterday. He expressed particular regret that some responsible officials in Rwanda had attended the demonstration and were reported to have made unfortunate statements.

The Secretary-General called on all segments of Rwandese society to exercise restraint in order not to exacerbate tensions further. He expressed the hope that the Government of Rwanda would do everything possible to ensure that UNAMIR received the cooperation necessary for carrying out its mandate.

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Bosnian Serb forces fired mortars into the safe area of Gorazde yesterday and again today, according to a United Nations spokesman. They had threatened to shell Bosnian Government positions if sniper activity in the area did not cease, and opened fire after a Bosnian Serb soldier was killed by a sniper. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) called for a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) air presence over the area, but did not request close air support.

Meanwhile, two people were injured when the Bosnian Serbs fired two shells into Sarajevo, the spokesman continued. Fighting intensified in north-eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina, while forces loyal to rebel Muslim leader Fikret Abdic launched an offensive along the northern confrontation line of the Bihac pocket.

* * *

The United Kingdom and Nigeria have presented an informal paper on ways to enhance conflict prevention and peace-keeping in Africa to the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). At a press conference at Headquarters today, the Permanent Representatives of the two countries to the United Nations, Sir David Hannay and Ibrahim Gambari, said Africa had great potential for solving its own problems. However, it was difficult to realize that potential because of a shortage of resources and logistical difficulties, and because of obstacles to cooperation between African countries, including differences of language.

The working paper dealt with conflict prevention in terms of a much wider amassing and sharing of information on possible conflict situations, according to Ambassador Hannay. Possible preventive actions ranged from the dispatch of special representatives to the deployment of monitors or troops. The paper was not a quick fix, but a programme for several years. If followed through, it could bring about a qualitative change in the way African issues were addressed, he concluded.

Ambassador Gambari noted that Nigeria currently held the chairmanship of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. He stressed the importance of improving cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, particularly the OAU. He added that African countries had no shortage of peace-keepers to offer, but needed external logistical and financial support.

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The Commission on Sustainable Development has the potential to mobilize additional resources for the promotion of sustainable development, according to its newly elected Chairman, Henrique Brandao Cavalcanti of Brazil. In his inaugural address yesterday, he said the Commission had an essentially

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political nature, and had a potentially wide sphere of influence in carrying out its mandate.

While the Commission had made real progress in the last two years, the awesome task of promoting and implementing Agenda 21 -- the programme of action adopted at the 1992 Earth Summit -- remained to be completed by 1997. He expressed confidence that the Commission's conclusions and recommendations would be instrumental in adapting present-day patterns to new standards of sustainability.

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Heads of State will be given precedence over Heads of government in addresses at the special commemorative meetings of the General Assembly in October, the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations has decided. In taking that decision, the Committee agreed to adhere to the Assembly practice regarding addresses during the annual general debate. It also decided to draw up the speakers' list by random selection through a public ballot.

Gillian Martin Sorensen, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General for Public Policy, outlined plans for the commemorative events to be hosted by the city of San Francisco on 25 and 26 June. She also updated the Committee on arrangements for the commemorative meetings to be held at Headquarters in October.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1872

13 April 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council extends UNOMIL mandate until 30 June; urges Liberian parties to observe cease-fire and promptly install Council of State; establishes Committee to monitor arms embargo against Liberia.
- + Security Council welcomes Secretary-General's decision to prepare for deployment of UNAVEM III infantry units; says Angolan parties must implement Lusaka Protocol and provide Mission with necessary support.
- + Security Council expresses concern at escalation of military activities on Tajik-Afghan border; urges parties to reconfirm commitment to resolve conflict by political means.
- + Security Council seeks acceleration of voter identification process in Western Sahara, with view to holding referendum in January 1996.
- + Special Representative for former Yugoslavia to meet with Bosnian parties next week to negotiate extension of cessation of hostilities Agreement.
- + Fighting intensifies in UNPROFOR and UNCRO mission areas; Bosnian Government forces battle Croatian Serbs in Sector North.
- + Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks concludes after revising draft agreement on conservation and sustainable use of high seas fisheries.
- + Preparatory Committee for Habitat II to hold second session in Nairobi from 24 April to 5 May.
- + Department of Humanitarian Affairs sends emergency aid to Cape Verde following eruption of Fogo volcano.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) until 30 June. It urged all the Liberian parties to reestablish an effective cease-fire, to promptly install

For information media—not an official (transcript)

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the Council of State, and to take effective steps to implement other provisions of the Akosombo and Accra Agreements. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 985 (1995).

The Council urged all States to comply fully with the embargo on deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Liberia imposed by resolution 788 (1992). To that end, it decided to establish a Council Committee to seek information from all States on action taken by them concerning the effective implementation of the embargo; to consider any information concerning violations of the embargo and to make recommendations on ways to increase its effectiveness; and to recommend appropriate measures in response to violations.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to report by 15 June on the situation in Liberia, including whether there was an effective cease-fire and whether UNOMIL could carry out its mandate. The Council said it would consider the Mission's future in the light of that report.

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In another meeting today, the Council welcomed the confirmation by the Secretary-General that the cease-fire was generally holding in Angola and that the level of violations had remained relatively low. In a statement by its President, Karel Kovanda (Czech Republic), the Council welcomed the continued deployment of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) observers and the progress in related areas. It also welcomed the Secretary-General's decision to proceed with preparations for the deployment of UNAVEM III infantry units. The Council emphasized the need for full implementation of the Lusaka Protocol. The Angolan parties must provide the Mission with indispensable logistic support, and undertake essential tasks to permit the deployment of the infantry units in May.

The Council expressed concern about some developments in Angola. Those included reports of continuing military actions and preparations, particularly the Angolan Air Force's attack on Andulo airstrip; the failure to complete the second phase of disengagement by 10 April; and recent attacks on personnel of UNAVEM III and non-governmental organizations. It called for unrestricted access for the Mission in areas controlled by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

The Council called on the parties to cooperate fully with the United Nations, particularly through the Joint Commission, and to assure the safety of UNAVEM III and NGO personnel. It reiterated its call for a meeting between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and UNITA President Jonas Savimbi as a matter of urgency.

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The Security Council has expressed deep concern at the escalation of military activities on the Tajik-Afghan border and the resultant loss of

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life. In a statement last night by its President, the Council urged the Government and the opposition in Tajikistan to reconfirm, through concrete steps, their commitment to resolve the conflict only through political means.

The Council said armed activities by the Tajik opposition in violation of the 17 September cease-fire Agreement jeopardized inter-Tajik dialogue and the process of national reconciliation. It called on the Tajik Government and the opposition to comply strictly with the Agreement, and particularly called on the opposition to extend it for a substantial period beyond 26 April. The Council welcomed the agreement by the parties to hold an urgent high-level meeting in Moscow.

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In a second Presidential statement last night, the Council welcomed the progress achieved so far in the identification and registration process in Western Sahara. It emphasized the need to continue accelerating the rate of identification, and endorsed the goal of identifying 25,000 voters a month. The Council expressed concern about delays resulting from the failure to ensure the continuous presence at identification centres of representatives of the "sub-fractions" (tribal groups). It expressed the hope that the agreement reached on a method for choosing alternative representatives would help to further accelerate the identification process, with a view to holding the referendum in January 1996.

The Council called on both parties to cooperate fully with the Secretary-General and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) to ensure prompt and full implementation of the Settlement Plan. It regretted that there has been insufficient progress in the identification process to enable the Secretary-General to recommend 1 June as the commencement date of the transitional period. It also expressed concern about the slow progress on other aspects relevant to the Plan which must be implemented before the referendum could take place. The Council said it hoped to see rapid progress by the time of the Secretary-General's report in May, which would enable it to favourably consider extending MINURSO's mandate.

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It will not be easy to secure an extension of the cessation of hostilities Agreement signed by the Bosnian parties last December, according to the Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi. The Agreement expires at the end of this month. Mr. Akashi told correspondents at Headquarters today that each party was unhappy with the way the agreement had been honoured -- or dishonoured -- by the other. He said that the Security Council was gravely concerned about the matter, and that he would be traveling to Sarajevo and Pale next week to try to negotiate an extension of the Agreement.

Mr. Akashi described the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina as quite serious, with fighting continuing in the north and east of the country. He said he was "anxious and impatient" for progress in the former Yugoslavia, and

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expressed the hope that real advances could be made by the end of the year. He was not disheartened by the experience of the United Nations in the region to date. Three years was not a long time in the history of humanity, or the Organization, and it had taken years for peace to be achieved in Northern Ireland and elsewhere.

The peace-keeping operations in the former Yugoslavia were the largest and most complex ever undertaken by the United Nations, Mr. Akashi said. The problems faced daily, and sometimes hourly, were tremendous. However, the Organization had brave and dedicated soldiers and civilians, and their teamwork was always solid. He went on to say that some of the disappointments in the region might have been a function of unjustified expectations. The parties to a conflict sometimes expected too much from peace-keepers. However, the United Nations must remain a credible, impartial third party.

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Fighting has broadened and worsened in the mission areas of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO), a spokesman for the Organization said today. Clashes continued in north-east and central Bosnia, while five civilians were injured by a mortar round in Sarajevo.

Meanwhile in Croatia, 12 shells landed around Dubrovnik airport, causing a fire at a petrol station. In Sector North, Ukrainian peace-keepers had to abandon an observation post amid heavy fighting between the Bosnian Government's Fifth Corps and Croatian Serb forces near the border with the Bihac pocket.

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The United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks yesterday concluded its fifth session, after revising a draft agreement on the conservation and sustainable use of high seas fisheries. The agreement could lead to a legally binding treaty which would enter into force 30 days after its ratification by 40 countries.

The revised 48-article draft agreement was presented by Conference Chairman Satya Nandan (Fiji) based on negotiations which began in July 1993. It contains general principles to guide coastal and management duties under the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea. The duties include measures to eliminate over-fishing and ensure long-term sustainability of fish stocks.

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The second session of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat II will be held from 24 April to 5 May in Nairobi, Kenya. The Committee will be deliberating on a draft global plan of action to guide the development of human settlements -- cities, towns and villages -- for the first two decades of the twenty-first century. The Conference will be held in Istanbul in 1996.

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If present trends continue, half of the world's population -- or nearly 3 billion people -- will be living in urban centres by the turn of the century. Meanwhile, most of the growth in the world's urban population will occur in developing countries.

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The Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) is sending two aircraft to Cape Verde with emergency relief material for people displaced by the eruption of Fogo volcano. Some 5,000 people, most of them women, children and the elderly, have been evacuated to coastal villages where they are facing difficult conditions.

The Government of Cape Verde has launched an international appeal for assistance as continuing volcanic activity could cause the situation to worsen.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1873
17 April 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Parties to Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons begin 1995 Review and Extension Conference; Secretary-General urges end to testing, production, sale and transfer of nuclear weapons.
- + Security Council authorizes States to import up to \$1 billion worth of Iraqi petroleum every 90 days to meet humanitarian needs in Iraq.
- + Snipers kill two French peace-keepers and local UNPROFOR staff member in Sarajevo over weekend; Security Council condemns deliberate targeting of United Nations personnel and invites Secretary-General to investigate incidents.
- + United Nations and OAS hold Third General Meeting at Headquarters; Secretaries-General note cooperation between two Organizations in Haiti.
- + Secretary-General says progress in Rwanda is threatened by renewed tensions; refugees and displaced persons must be encouraged to return home; Special Representative to consider possible adjustments to UNAMIR mandate.

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The 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) began today at Headquarters. The four-week Conference will review the implementation of the Treaty, which entered into force in 1970, and decide whether it should be extended indefinitely or for a fixed period or periods. Today's meeting began with the election of Ambassador Jayantha Dhanapala (Sri Lanka) as Chairman of the Conference.

In his inaugural address, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said the world had become, in many ways, a safer place over the past 25 years. The number of parties to the NPT had grown steadily to 178, and universality was within reach. However, there were also increasing dangers. Some States were

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For information media—not an official record

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seeking to manufacture weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, at a time when the world was beset by ethnic tension. There was also a risk of such weapons falling into the hands of non-State terrorist groups.

The Secretary-General stressed the need to enhance security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States through cooperative security arrangements, to advance nuclear disarmament, and to address concerns regarding access to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. "The most safe, sure and swift way to deal with the threat of nuclear arms is to do away with them in every regard", he went on to say. "This should be our vision of the future. No more testing. No more production. No more sales or transfers".

Speaking on behalf of the host country, Secretary of State Warren Christopher said the NPT embodied the guiding principles of the United Nations and was one of the most important treaties of all time. Many of its achievements could not be quantified -- the weapons not built, the nuclear materials not diverted, and the wars not started -- but its tangible results were impressive. The purpose of the NPT was to preserve the security of all, not the nuclear-weapons monopoly of a few. That security must be constantly reinforced. "For all nations and all peoples, the future of the NPT will be even more important than its past", he concluded.

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The Security Council has authorized States to permit the import of up to \$1 billion worth of Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products every 90 days to meet the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi people. The Council also authorized Turkey to permit the import of Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products to meet tariff charges for their transport through the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline. It took that action on Friday, by unanimously adopting resolution 986 (1995) under Chapter VII of the Charter.

Purchases of Iraqi petroleum under the resolution will be approved and supervised by the Council Committee which monitors sanctions against Iraq. The full amount of each purchase will be deposited directly by the purchaser into an escrow account to be established by the Secretary-General. The funds will finance the export to Iraq of medicine, health supplies, foodstuffs and essential materials, provided that the export is at the request of Iraq and that the country effectively guarantees their equitable distribution. A percentage will be transferred to the Compensation Fund dealing with claims resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

In a statement issued on Friday, the Secretary-General welcomed the adoption of resolution 986 (1995), which he hoped would be a first step towards overcoming the crisis between Iraq and the international community. However, he expressed regret today at Iraq's response to the resolution as reported by the international media. He expressed the hope that the Iraqi Government would reconsider its position.

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Two French peace-keepers and a local staff member of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) were killed by sniper fire in Sarajevo over the weekend, according to a spokesman for the Organization. He said that the incidents were being intensively investigated, and that the source, or sources, of the firing had not yet been determined.

In a Presidential statement on Friday, the Security Council strongly condemned the deliberate targeting of UNPROFOR personnel, which reflected the overall deterioration of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It invited the Secretary-General to investigate those acts, and to report to it, taking into consideration the views of troop-contributing countries, on any measures which might be necessary to prevent further attacks, which should not remain unpunished.

* * *

The Third General Meeting of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) began today at Headquarters. In an opening address, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said he had constantly sought to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. The international community was threatened as never before, and responsibilities must be shared. States faced challenges from above -- such as threats to the environment, transnational crime and pandemics -- and challenges from below -- such as social disintegration, poverty and unemployment.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said he saw the role of the OAS as concentrating on three specific areas: preventive diplomacy, peace-making and peace-building. He stressed the importance of peace-building, which required creating a culture of democracy, organizing and monitoring elections, and reforming and reinforcing key institutions. He also called attention to the level of cooperation between the United Nations and the OAS in Haiti.

The Secretary General of the OAS, Cesar Gaviria, paid tribute to Mr. Boutros-Ghali for his key role in supporting the restoration of democracy in Haiti. The international community, especially in the Americas, deeply appreciated his initiatives to promote freedom, respect for human rights, and development in that country. Mr. Gaviria described the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) as an outstanding example of collaboration between the OAS and the United Nations.

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The progress achieved in Rwanda over the past nine months is threatened by renewed tensions, according to the Secretary-General. In a report dated 9 April, he said the Government and the international community must put the country back on the road to stability, reconciliation and reconstruction. Those goals would remain elusive as long as two million Rwandese remained in camps outside the country. The Government must make more determined efforts

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to foster a climate of trust and confidence, and to create conditions that would encourage refugees and displaced persons not suspected of involvement in last year's genocide to return home. At the same time, steps must be taken to bring those guilty of genocide to trial as soon as possible.

The Government could not by itself address all the problems facing Rwanda, he continued. It needed the assistance and cooperation of its neighbours and the international community. He urged donors to accelerate the flow of aid to Rwanda, noting that the Trust Fund for the country could disburse assistance quickly and effectively. He expressed concern about the increasing harassment of United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) personnel, and urged the Government to extend the cooperation necessary for the Mission to carry out its mandate.

Senior Rwandese officials had pointed out that the situation in their country had changed, and that UNAMIR's mandate and role should be reviewed, the Secretary-General noted. He had therefore asked his Special Representative to consider, in consultation with the Government, possible adjustments to the Mission's mandate, which would expire on 9 June. Based on his advice, the Secretary-General would submit recommendations on the future role of the Mission in the next report to the Council.

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Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1874
18 April 1995

T U E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

- + Many speakers call for indefinite extension of Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as 1995 Review and Extension Conference begins general debate.
- + Secretary-General to pay official visits to Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji during three-week tour; will also attend Victory Day parades in Paris and Moscow.
- + France warns it will withdraw peace-keepers if situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina does not improve; urges measures to enable UNPROFOR to implement its mandate, and resumption of negotiations by Bosnian parties.
- + UNPROFOR says responsibility for deaths of two French peace-keepers in Sarajevo cannot be determined conclusively.
- + Security Council should minimize unintended adverse side-effects of future sanctions on vulnerable populations, five permanent members say.
- + Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs to visit Cambodia to discuss continued United Nations human rights presence there.
- + Special Envoy for Tajikistan expected to convene meeting of Tajik parties in Moscow tomorrow.
- + Security Council should maintain strict control over implementation of peace-keeping mandates, Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations is told.
- + Germany, Netherlands and United Kingdom pledge \$1.9 million for United Nations Guards in Iraq; United States earmarks \$1.1 million from frozen Iraqi assets.
- + Commission for Social Development concludes consideration of international development plans and programmes; discusses follow-up to Copenhagen Summit.

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The 1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) today began its general debate, and heard many calls for the Treaty's indefinite extension. The Foreign Minister of France, Alain Juppe, said the European Union was committed to the indefinite and unconditional extension of the NPT. It was in the interest of the international community to counter the proliferation of nuclear weapons, to promote the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to continue the process of disarmament. Export controls were essential to non-proliferation, he added.

The Foreign Minister of Germany, Klaus Kinkel, said that while the NPT was not flawless, its extension should not be made conditional. Such a move would only play into the hands of those who sought a pretext for their own nuclear ambitions. United Kingdom Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd said the Treaty had its imperfections, but none amounted to a fatal flaw. While it might appear to discriminate between nuclear and non-nuclear weapon States, a firm distinction had been drawn between them in order to contain proliferation.

Nigeria's Foreign Minister, Tom Ikimi, warned that glossing over the failures of the Treaty and extending it indefinitely would be an invitation to nuclear disorder. "If the nuclear-arms race has abated due to the transformation in the international system, we have yet to see the commencement of a concrete step towards the elimination of nuclear weapons", he said. Nigeria supported the extension of the Treaty for a fixed period, with the proviso that it would not lapse at the end of that period.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will leave New York tomorrow on a three-week tour, during which he will pay official visits to Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. The Secretary-General will address the fortieth anniversary commemoration of the Asia-Africa Conference in Bandung, the Global Conference on Cultural Diversity in Sydney, and a Conference on the Future of the United Nations in Melbourne. He will also attend the Victory Day parades in Paris and Moscow.

The Secretary-General had numerous appointments today, including a meeting with the President of Brazil. He also met with the Foreign Ministers of France, Nigeria, Japan, Germany, Belarus, Norway, South Africa and Egypt.

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The present situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina is intolerable and could lead to the withdrawal of French peace-keepers, according to French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe. He told correspondents at Headquarters today that the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was unable to fulfill its mission. Its peace-keepers were being murdered, sometimes by the people they were there to protect. He added that there were strong reasons to believe that one of

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the two French troops killed in Sarajevo over the weekend had been shot by a Bosnian sniper.

The situation could not be allowed to continue, and France had called an emergency meeting of the Security Council to work on a draft resolution covering three points, the Foreign Minister continued. The draft would invite the Secretary-General to submit proposals on measures to strengthen UNPROFOR to enable it to implement its mandate. It would also require an extension of the cessation of hostilities agreement -- which expires at the end of this month -- and would call on the Bosnian parties to resume negotiations for a political settlement.

In order to implement the resolution if adopted, France would request a ministerial meeting of the Contact Group, he said. The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia would be also asked to arrange a meeting of the parties to resume the stalled dialogue. If those initiatives did not yield satisfactory results within a reasonable period of time, France would have to withdraw its troops from UNPROFOR.

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The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) has been unable to conclusively determine who was responsible for the deaths of two French troops in Sarajevo over the weekend. A United Nations spokesman said both peace-keepers were within range of sniper fire from Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Government positions when they were killed.

From UNPROFOR's perspective, the investigation into the killings was closed, the spokesman went on to say. Both incidents remained classified as "unattributed cease-fire violations".

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The Security Council should minimize the unintended adverse side-effects of any future sanctions on the most vulnerable sections of targeted countries, according to its five permanent members. China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States made that comment in a non-paper on the humanitarian impact of sanctions. It was transmitted to the President of the Council in a letter dated 13 April.

The structure and implementation of any future sanctions regime might vary according to the resource base of the targeted country, the non-paper said. That would require an objective assessment of the short- and long-term consequences of sanctions. The more information the Council and sanctions committees had on the humanitarian situation in a target country, the better. In that respect, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs should have a coordinating role. It should draw on the expertise and assistance of States, agencies, international bodies and non-governmental organizations, and report to sanctions committees. The committees could refer certain matters to the Council, such as recommendations requiring changes to resolutions.

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In case of emergencies or force majeure situations, the Council and/or the committees might review the application of sanctions and take appropriate actions, the permanent members said. Sanctions regimes should provide for unimpeded access to humanitarian aid. Targeted States should be discouraged from impeding humanitarian aid and encouraged to render assistance in that respect. Procedures for consideration of humanitarian applications by sanctions committees should be as expeditious as possible. The simplest possible authorization procedures should be developed in the case of essential humanitarian supplies. Clearly defined categories of medical supplies and foodstuffs should be allowed to be supplied even without notification of the relevant committees.

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The Secretary-General has asked the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Marrack Goulding, to visit Cambodia for discussions on the continued presence there of the Office of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights. Those discussions were initiated at a meeting between the Secretary-General and the Second Prime Minister of Cambodia, Samdech Hun Sen, on 20 March.

Following consultations with the Royal Government of Cambodia, it has been agreed that Mr. Goulding will visit Phnom Penh from 4 to 6 May. He will be accompanied by a member of the Centre for Human Rights.

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The Special Envoy for Tajikistan, Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, is expected to convene a meeting of the Tajik parties in Moscow tomorrow, according to a United Nations spokesman. The meeting will focus on extending the current cease-fire beyond 26 April, and on setting a date for the fourth round of inter-Tajik talks.

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The Security Council should maintain strict control over the implementation of peace-keeping mandates, the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations heard today as it continued its general debate. Zimbabwe said some peace-keeping operations had tended to acquire additional or even different mandates, which were not necessarily in line with their original objectives. The respective areas of responsibility of political and military authorities must be clearly defined.

Thailand said peace-keeping operations should be guided by the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter -- full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States, and non-intervention in their internal affairs. Pakistan stressed that peace-keeping operations should remain in place until the causes of the conflicts in question had been resolved.

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Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom have pledged a total of \$1.9 million to finance the activities of the United Nations Guards Contingent in Iraq (UNGCI), according to the Department for Humanitarian Affairs. In addition, the United States has earmarked \$1.1 million in matching funds for the United Nations Escrow Account, from frozen Iraqi assets held in the country. That brings the amount made available for the Guards Contingent to \$3.1 million.

The pledges were made at meetings convened by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Peter Hansen, on 3 and 11 April. Due to funding constraints, the strength of the Guards Contingent decreased in recent months from 150 to 62. Mr. Hansen expressed concern at the tense security situation in northern Iraq, and emphasized that the Guards were needed to protect United Nations personnel and humanitarian operations.

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The Commission for Social Development yesterday concluded its consideration of international plans and programmes of action relating to social development. Among the topics discussed were the rights and duties of the family, violence among youth, and the needs of the disabled and older persons.

The representative of Sudan said youth violence was caused by political, economic and social factors. However, some States were tackling the problem as a security and safety issue, and were directing violence against young people. He called for dialogue and participation to help solve such problems. The United States representative said every State should adopt laws supporting the basic legal and human rights of persons with disabilities. The United Nations should hold Member States accountable for implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, he added.

The Commission later began consideration of its input to the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development. The Declaration and Programme of Action adopted at Copenhagen contain recommendations to the Economic and Social Council which affect the work of the Commission. Specifically, the Council is called on to review the Commission's mandate, agenda and composition.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1875

19 April 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council condemns recent attacks on peace-keepers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and demands end to acts of violence against UNPROFOR; calls on parties to extend cessation of hostilities agreement and to resume negotiations on overall settlement.
- + Secretary-General expresses horror at terrorist attack in Oklahoma City; extends condolences to families involved and to people of United States.
- + UNPROFOR requests NATO air presence after heavy fighting between Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serbs in Sarajevo; three British peace-keepers wounded by mines near Gorazde.
- + NPT should be extended indefinitely and unconditionally, United States tells 1995 Review and Extension Conference; China supports smooth extension, but not for single fixed period.
- + Secretary-General appeals to Member States to take urgent action to ensure voluntary return of Rwandese refugees; says deteriorating food situation in refugee camps reflects serious donor fatigue.
- + United Nations agencies and NGOs hold urgent meeting in Rwanda after unannounced Government operation to close camp for displaced persons; Special Representative stresses need for transparency and respect for human rights.
- + Friends of Secretary-General express concern about security situation in Haiti; stress need for effective police force, fair judicial system, and free and fair elections in June.
- + Security Council Committee on sanctions against Libya gives approval for Egyptair to carry 6,000 Libyan pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

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+ Member States owe United Nations \$3.1 billion as of 15 April; \$1.1 billion owed to regular budget and \$2 billion owed to peace-keeping.

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The Security Council today strongly condemned the recent attacks on peace-keepers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and demanded that all parties refrain from acts of intimidation or violence against the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). The Council emphasized once again the responsibility of the parties and others concerned in the Republic for the Force's security and safety. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 987 (1995), which was sponsored by France.

The Council invited the Secretary-General to submit, on an urgent basis, proposals on any measures which could prevent attacks against UNPROFOR and its personnel, and allow it to perform its mission effectively. It called on the Bosnian parties to extend the current cease-fire and cessation of hostilities agreements beyond 30 April, and to cooperate with the Force in their implementation. The Council urged all parties and others concerned to resume negotiations on an overall peaceful settlement, based on acceptance of the Contact Group peace plan as a starting-point.

Following the adoption of the resolution, the Permanent Representative of France said the assassination of two French peace-keepers in Sarajevo over the weekend was totally unacceptable. The killings reflected the deterioration of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and there was a risk that UNPROFOR's mission there would be called into question. France expected that the parties would respond immediately to today's resolution.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed his horror at the terrorist attack in Oklahoma City and the resulting loss of innocent lives. He extended his condolences to the families of those involved, as well as to President Clinton and the people of the United States who were the victims of the outrage. He added that he was following the situation closely.

The Secretary-General left Headquarters this morning for London, and was scheduled to depart for Indonesia tomorrow.

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Three British peace-keepers were wounded by mines while on routine foot patrol near Gorazde this morning, according to a United Nations spokesman. They were evacuated to Tuzla hospital with serious, but not life-threatening, injuries.

In Sarajevo last night, Bosnian Government and Bosnian Serb forces exchanged mortar and artillery fire for several hours, in what the spokesman

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Press Release DH/1875
19 April 1995

described as a very serious incident. At UNPROFOR's request, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) aircraft flew over the area for 40 minutes and the fighting died down.

Meanwhile, there were unconfirmed reports that the Croatian Serbs and forces loyal to rebel Muslim leader Fikret Abdic had launched a major offensive action east of Velika Kladusa, on the northern confrontation line of the Bihac pocket. There were no United Nations observers in the area to verify those reports.

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United States Vice President Al Gore today urged the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to support its indefinite and unconditional extension. He told the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference that the Treaty remained central to the cause of international peace. All questions and criticisms relating to the NPT could be answered not only by logic and argument, but by the performance of the Treaty and its Parties over the past twenty-five years. He added that nuclear disarmament remained the ultimate goal of the United States.

South Africa's Foreign Minister, Alfred Nzo, said his country had decided to destroy its nuclear weapons because the NPT's provisions guaranteed its security. The Treaty ensured the continuing commitment of the nuclear-weapon States to disarmament. South Africa's supported, in principle, its indefinite extension. The review and extension process should not damage the Treaty, and the decision on extension should be taken only after every effort had been made to achieve the broadest possible support.

Yesterday, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen expressed support for the "smooth" extension of the NPT, but not for a single fixed period. Should the option for multiple-period extension be chosen, each period should be no less than 25 years. If the option of indefinite extension were chosen, it must be made clear that it did not perpetuate the prerogative of nuclear-weapon States to possess such weapons. Whichever option were chosen, regular reviews of the Treaty's implementation should continue.

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The Secretary-General has appealed to Member States to take urgent action to ensure that all Rwandese refugees and displaced persons in the Great Lakes region voluntarily return home. In a report dated 14 April, he said achieving that goal would require the combined efforts of the countries of origin and asylum, as well as the international community.

The report called attention to the deteriorating food situation in the camps. Food shortages had led to the beginnings of malnutrition among women and children, and the refugees believed that the international community was using food as a weapon to force them to return to Rwanda. The Secretary-General said those developments were a sign of serious donor fatigue, and appealed to donor nations to reverse the situation.

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The deployment of the Zairean Camp Security Contingent and the Civilian Security Liaison Group in refugee camps had improved conditions, he continued. The presence of the Contingent might help to prevent incidents such as the attack on the Birava camp on 11 April, in which 31 refugees were killed by unidentified men. He stressed, however, that improved security conditions in the camps would not ensure the voluntary repatriation of all refugees. The Government of Rwanda must promote genuine national reconciliation and ensure that refugees could return home without fear of persecution.

* * *

United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations in Rwanda met today on an urgent basis after the Rwandese Government launched an operation to close the Kibeho camp for internally displaced persons. At least eight were trampled to death yesterday when Government troops entering the camp fired into the air, according to a United Nations spokesman. The camp houses some 120,000 displaced persons, of whom 30,000 to 35,000 were directly affected by the operation.

The United Nations agencies and the NGOs were attempting to work out a plan to deal with the situation and to accelerate the return home of the displaced persons, the spokesman continued. The United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) had provided 28 trucks to transport those who had expressed a wish to go home, while the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was bringing in food, water and other necessities. Some displaced persons had already left the camp on foot, and the Rwandese Government had closed the nearby border crossing into Burundi.

The spokesman said that the United Nations had not been informed of the operation in advance, and that the agencies had been caught off guard. Special Representative Shahryar Khan had emphasized the importance of transparency and respect for the human rights of the people involved. Meanwhile, the Rwandese Government had announced plans to close another two camps.

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The Friends of the Secretary-General on Haiti have expressed concern about the security situation in the country. They said the early deployment of an effective police force and the reactivation of a functioning and fair judicial system were central to Haiti's long term stability. They joined the Secretary-General in calling for Member States to contribute to the creation of an adequate police force and to the international police monitoring programme. The Friends -- Argentina, Canada, France, the United States and Venezuela -- made those comments in a letter to the President of the Security Council issued on 17 April.

The Friends underlined the need for free, fair and peaceful legislative and local elections in June, as a crucial step in consolidating democracy in Haiti. National reconstruction and reconciliation efforts must be intensified

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to reduce the potential for violence and uncertainty. While the Government and people of Haiti bore the main responsibility for those efforts, immediate and sustained international assistance was needed. The Friends expressed confidence in the Secretary-General's Special Representative, the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) and the International Civilian Mission (MICIVIH), and stressed the need to build on their achievements.

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The Security Council Committee monitoring the implementation of sanctions against Libya today gave approval for Egyptair to carry 6,000 Libyan pilgrims to Saudi Arabia on 45 flights. The pilgrims will return to Libya on an equal number of flights. The Committee took that action in response to a request by the Government of Egypt, according to a United Nations spokesman.

The flights will be monitored by the countries involved and the United Nations to ensure that they are used only for the declared purpose, the spokesman said. The Council does not have to vote on the Committee's decision.

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As of 15 April, Member States owed the United Nations a total of \$3.1 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, \$1.1 billion was for assessments for the regular budget and \$2 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed \$527 million to the regular budget and \$689 million to peace-keeping. The Russian Federation owed \$63 million to the regular budget and \$568 to peace-keeping.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1876

20 April 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Progress in implementing NPT has not met expectations of drafters, Egypt tells 1995 Review and Extension Conference; Lebanon says Treaty must be made universal, citing need to eliminate nuclear weapons from Middle East.
- + Secretary-General says success of UNMIH will require full cooperation of Government and people of Haiti; free and fair elections would facilitate economic and social development.
- + Special Representative for former Yugoslavia meets with Bosnian parties to negotiate extension of cessation of hostilities agreement; UNPROFOR denies Bosnian Serbs access to weapons at collection points in Sarajevo.
- + Special Representative for Rwanda expects Kibeho crisis to end within days, but Rwandese soldiers begin evictions at three more camps for internally displaced persons.
- + Government of Rwanda appeals to all refugees to return home to assist reconstruction efforts; says it is committed to resettlement and reconciliation.
- + Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations concludes general debate with discussion on unified command and control, and cooperation with regional bodies.

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Progress in implementing the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has not lived up to the expectations of its drafters, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amre Moussa told the 1995 Review and Extension Conference today. There had been some progress in concluding treaties to control medium-range and strategic nuclear weapons, he said, but stockpiles of nuclear weapons were bigger today than they were 25 years ago when the NPT Treaty came into force. Egypt could not support the Treaty's indefinite extension as the situation in the Middle East was volatile and unsatisfactory.

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Lebanon's Foreign Minister, Fares Rouez, said that to remain credible, useful and effective, the NPT must be made universal. Israel's failure to sign the Treaty meant that the Middle East was a long way from becoming a nuclear-weapon-free zone. The region was continuously imperiled by Israel's nuclear weapons, at a time of complicated and violent conflict. Peace and stability in the Middle East demanded the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in the region.

Gaston Ibanez of Peru said the NPT was the sole effective guarantee of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. The growth in its membership reflected its success over the last 25 years. Peru firmly supported the indefinite extension of the Treaty as the sole instrument available to continue nuclear disarmament and to facilitate nuclear cooperation.

Conference President Jayantha Dhanapala (Sri Lanka) extended condolences to the people of the United States following yesterday's tragic bomb attack in Oklahoma City.

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The transfer of responsibilities from the Multinational Force to the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) was a milestone in international efforts to bring peace and stability to the country, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report dated 13 April, he said there was reason to hope that UNMIH would be as successful as the Multinational Force, notwithstanding its broader mandate. However, the Mission would need the full cooperation of the Government and people of Haiti.

The Secretary-General said the state of the Haitian economy would be a critical factor. Although economic development was not part of its mandate, UNMIH would provide assistance where possible. In that regard, Cristian Ossa had been concurrently appointed Deputy Special Representative and Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). It was the first time the Organization had linked a peace-keeping operation to development in such a manner.

UNMIH had the means and the determination to carry out its mission, which was to help the Government provide security and create conditions that would allow it to maintain law and order without external support, he stressed. The establishment of the new Haitian police force and the rehabilitation of the judicial system remained crucial for the maintenance of a secure environment and for the consolidation of democracy, respect for human rights and an end to impunity. Successful elections would create stable institutions, enhancing security and facilitating social and economic development.

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Special Representative Yasushi Akashi today continued his efforts to secure an extension of the Bosnian cessation of hostilities agreement beyond 30 April, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Akashi met this

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morning in Sarajevo with Prime Minister Haris Silajic, and was scheduled to travel to Pale this afternoon to meet with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic. He was expected to return to Sarajevo tomorrow for a meeting with President Alija Izetbegovic.

The spokesman said there had been problems regarding the use of Sarajevo Airport. Aircraft approaching from Zagreb had been forced to turn around in mid-air yesterday and today because of a Serb liaison officer's unwillingness to issue security guarantees. The spokesman stressed that the Bosnian parties had no right to veto United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) or United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) flights.

UNPROFOR peace-keepers yesterday denied Bosnian Serb soldiers access to weapons at two collection points in the Sarajevo area. Also yesterday, a mortar round landed in the parking-lot of the French battalion's compound, damaging three trucks.

* * *

Special Representative Shahryar Khan expects the crisis resulting from the Rwandese Government operation to close the Kibeho camp to be over within two or three days, a United Nations spokesman said today. The Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) visited Kibeho today. He expressed concern about the displaced persons pushed to the centre of the camp area, and about the lack of food, water and sanitation.

The United Nations has been holding intensive talks with the Rwandese Government, while agencies and non-governmental organizations have been working to resolve the humanitarian situation, the spokesman continued. However, there were reports that Rwandese soldiers had surrounded three more camps for internally displaced persons, and had begun evicting their occupants. The Government had stated that the supply of water, food and other relief materials would be contingent on the continuous movement of displaced persons to their home communities.

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Meanwhile, the Government of Rwanda has reiterated its appeal to all Rwandese refugees to return home to participate in the reconstruction of the country. In a letter to the Security Council dated 18 April, it said the return of refugees was an inalienable right and would contribute to peace, unity and national reconciliation.

Some 1.2 million refugees had already returned to Rwanda, according to the letter. However, there were still more than 2 million exiles and about 300,000 internally displaced persons. The Government had taken a range of actions to promote their return, including negotiations with neighbouring countries, a campaign for reception and national reconciliation, and identification of resettlement sites.

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The Rwandese Government said it intended to accelerate the setting up of local administrations, to deploy international human rights observers, and to reorganize the judicial system. It was also committed to the effective establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal, and to the speedy and equitable trial of those responsible for genocide and massacres. The Government reiterated its gratitude to countries which were sheltering refugees and to the international community, and urged them to pursue humanitarian action for the return of refugees.

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The Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations yesterday concluded its general debate, which began on 10 April. Among the issues discussed were unified command and control of operations and cooperation between the United Nations and regional bodies.

New Zealand said unified command and control and other measures were needed to strengthen peace-keeping operations. During the planning phase of an operation, every effort should be made to name a force commander. Indonesia stressed that regional organizations had an indispensable role to play in peace-keeping efforts, although the United Nations had primary responsibility for international peace and security. Malaysia called for the elaboration of principles and guidelines for peace-keeping operations.

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Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Security Council extends suspension of certain economic sanctions against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for 75 days; China and Russian Federation abstain from voting on resolution.
- + Secretary-General arrives in Jakarta after brief stopover in Singapore; to hold talks with Indonesian President tomorrow.
- + UNHCR deplores forcible closure of camps for internally displaced persons in Rwanda; Special Representative meets with Vice-President after Government troops kill 16 in Kibeho.
- + Nuclear-weapon States provided weapons materials and technology to Israel in violation of NPT, Iran tells Review and Extension Conference.
- + Secretary-General sets out plan for implementation of UNCRO mandate; says there is enough common ground between Croatian parties for success, but situation could deteriorate quickly.
- + Special Representative Akashi reports no progress towards extending Bosnian cessation of hostilities agreement; warns alternative could be full-scale resumption of war.
- + Bosnian Government says there is no reason to believe its soldiers were involved in killings of two French peace-keepers last weekend.
- + General Assembly authorizes Economic and Social Council to decide on pending proposals for accreditation of NGOs to Beijing Women's Conference.
- + Compensation Commission says it cannot honour recent awards for damages resulting from Iraq's invasion of Kuwait; warns lack of resources will undermine credibility of United Nations.

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The Security Council today extended its suspension of certain economic sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro)

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for 75 days. Restrictions on air travel, maritime traffic, sporting events and cultural exchanges were originally suspended by resolution 943 (1994) for 100 days, provided that the border between the Federal Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina were closed. The suspension was extended for another 100 days by resolution 970 (1995).

The Council took today's action by adopting resolution 988 (1995) by thirteen votes in favour to none against, with China and the Russian Federation abstaining. It noted the measures taken by the Federal Republic to maintain the closure of its border with Bosnia and Herzegovina, but expressed concern about reports suggesting that helicopter flights might have crossed the border. The Council noted that those reports were being investigated by the Mission of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia (ICFY), and called on the Federal Republic to cooperate fully with that investigation.

The Council confirmed that commodities and products, including fuel beyond immediate needs, should not be carried on flights and ferry services permitted in accordance with resolution 943 (1994). It reminded States of the importance of strict enforcement of measures imposed under Chapter VII of the Charter. The Council requested that the Secretary-General report to it every 30 days on the Federal Republic's closure of the border and its compliance with relevant requirements. If the Federal Republic did not continue to close the border, or permitted substantial diversion of goods through Croatia, the suspension of sanctions would terminate within five days, unless the Council decided otherwise.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived in Jakarta, Indonesia, this morning after a brief stopover in Singapore, and was received by President Soeharto. Tomorrow, he will have talks with the President on Indonesia's relations with the United Nations, its chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement, the question of East Timor, and the 1995 NPT Review and Extension Conference.

Tomorrow afternoon, the Secretary-General will address the Foreign Affairs Forum of the Indonesian Foreign Ministry, and the National Youth Forum on Environment. Mr. and Mrs. Boutros-Ghali will later attend a state dinner in their honour. They will travel to Bandung on Sunday.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has deplored the forcible closure of camps for internally displaced persons in Rwanda. In a statement issued today, the agency warned of a catastrophe unless urgent assistance was delivered to more than 100,000 people who had regrouped on a hill after being driven from the Kibeho camp. Following the release of the statement, the Rwandese Government authorized humanitarian agencies to deliver assistance to the displaced persons.

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In another development, Rwandese forces opened fire on displaced persons in Kibeho yesterday -- killing 16 and injuring 44 -- after one attempted to take a rifle from a soldier. Special Representative Shahryar Khan went to the camp this morning in an effort to deal with the situation. He also met with Vice-President Paul Kagame.

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Nuclear-weapon States have generously provided weapons materials and technology to Israel in violation of the NPT, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told the 1995 Review and Extension Conference today. He said it was inconceivable that the regimes in Israel and South Africa could have acquired their weapons systems without the acquiescence of nuclear-weapon States. When all aspects of the NPT were implemented, it should be extended indefinitely. In the meantime, the only viable option was an extension consistent with the goal of ensuring the early realization of outstanding provisions.

The representative of Uzbekistan said indefinite extension was one of the most reliable ways to guarantee a secure world. He called for a strengthening of the non-proliferation regime through the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones. Uzbekistan had already called for such a zone for Central Asia.

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There is enough common ground between the Government of Croatia and the local Serb authorities to make possible the implementation of Security Council resolution 981 (1995), according to the Secretary-General. That resolution established the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia (UNCRO). In a report dated 18 April, he set out his plan for the implementation of the Operation's mandate, envisaging a total deployment of 8,750 troops by 30 June.

The Secretary-General stressed that the situation on the ground was volatile and that it could quickly deteriorate if all concerned did not exercise responsibility. In spite of their serious political differences, both parties were aware that the alternative was more violence and a resumption of war. However, they had not formally accepted the plan for UNCRO, and there was a risk that they would not cooperate with the Operation. The Secretary-General added that in those circumstances, it was not without misgivings that he had submitted his proposals to the Council.

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There has been no appreciable movement in the positions of the Bosnian parties on the extension of the cessation of hostilities agreement beyond 30 April, according to Special Representative Yasushi Akashi. However, he stressed that he would continue his efforts to secure an extension, as the alternative might be a full-scale resumption of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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Mr. Akashi had meetings with the parties in Sarajevo and Pale yesterday and today. He reported that the Government would only agree to an extension of the agreement if the Bosnian Serbs accepted the Contact Group's plan. However, the Bosnian Serb leadership would only do so on the basis of the current confrontation lines.

Meanwhile, there was very heavy fighting in the Posavina corridor and in the hills north of Tuzla. The Croatian Serbs and the forces loyal to Fikret Abdic continued to battle Bosnian Government troops in the north of the Bihac pocket, although Sarajevo was relatively quiet. In Croatia, one child was killed and two were severely injured when four mortar rounds landed in Sector North-East.

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There is no basis to believe that any Bosnian soldiers were involved in the killings of two French peace-keepers in Sarajevo last weekend, according to the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a letter to the Security Council President dated 18 April, it said it had no choice but to accept that the United Nations investigation into the killings had proved inconclusive. However, that inconclusiveness did not render the two Bosnian sides equally blameworthy. The Government could not accept the reckless speculation and innuendoes of some political figures allocating guilt to it.

The letter distinguished between political leaderships which lacked the necessary will to respond to aggression and ethnic cleansing, and United Nations personnel who were attempting to mitigate suffering. It said those leaderships had increasingly resorted to rationalizing their lack of will. The Bosnian Government appreciated the help it had received, and offered its sincerest condolences to the families of the two peace-keepers and to the French Government.

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The General Assembly today authorized the Economic and Social Council to decide on all pending proposals for the accreditation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the Conference preparatory process. The Assembly took that action in a resolution adopted by 86 votes in favour to none against, with China abstaining. The text had been approved by the Commission on the Status of Women.

The Assembly extended the deadline for NGOs to submit applications for accreditation to the Conference to 28 April. It requested that the Conference inform NGOs that had not been recommended for accreditation of the reasons for the denial. The organizations concerned would then be given a chance to provide additional information on their qualifications.

In explanation of vote, China said the Organization was setting a disturbing precedent, legally and procedurally, by turning the Economic and

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Social Council into a body which undertook operations of its subordinate organs. The practice of politicizing and complicating accreditation was inconsistent with the principles of the Charter.

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The United Nations Compensation Commission has so far approved more than 220,000 individual claims under three special categories for damages resulting from Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Those claims were worth more than \$870 million, according to a letter from the Commission's Governing Council to the President of the Security Council.

The Governing Council said claims approved at its sixteenth session for departure from Iraq or Kuwait (category A) and for serious injury or death (category B) could not yet be paid. It cited, among other reasons, the lack of resources in the Compensation Fund; the continuation of the embargo against Iraq; the failure to secure access to certain frozen funds or to receive a share of the value of impounded Iraqi oil; and the non-implementation of Security Council resolutions 706 (1992) and 712 (1992).

The Compensation Commission was undertaking an historic task which contributed to international peace and security by demonstrating the capacity of the United Nations to render justice, the letter said. However, the lack of resources to pay awards would have negative implications for the credibility of the Commission, and ultimately for the United Nations system. Several members of the Commission expected that the Security Council would find appropriate solutions so that awards could be honoured.

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